

Brucellosis (*Brucella* species)

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratory Services (LA SPHL) (504) 568-5371 or (504) 568-8102, 24 Hour Pager (504) 374-6669 or (877) 309-2867

Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology
(800) 256-2748 (24 hours)

Remember that these samples may be highly infectious! Extreme caution should be taken in collecting, preparing for shipment and transporting any material suspected of being contaminated with a biological agent.

Specimen Collection and Transport

Clinical:

Specimens best suited for culturing include: blood, infected tissues and abscess material; bone marrow and tissue from spleen or liver can also be cultured, but may be available only at autopsy. *Brucella* has also been isolated from CSF, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid and even urine. Specimens should be kept cold (not frozen) and transported to the LA SPHL as quickly as possible.

Reference cultures:

Any culture may be submitted to the LA SPHL for ruling in/out of *Brucella* spp. Cultures suspected of being *Brucella* spp. should be submitted on a blood agar slant.

Environmental samples:

Transmission by milk, milk products, meat and direct contact with infected animals is documented. If environmental sampling is indicated, consult the LA SPHL for guidelines on sample selection and submission.

Reporting:

All reporting times are the minimum time. Any individual specimen could take longer.

Brucella species grow very slowly and primary cultures will have to be held up to 10 days before they can be reported. If suspect colonies appear, a "*Brucella* spp. Detected" result could be reported in 4-6 hours by PCR, with confirmation within an additional 48 hours.